

MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING INFORMATION SHEET

24 HOUR HOTLINE: 1-888-256-9840

Whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals may occasionally become stranded in the shallow waters, or on the shores of the Hawaiian Islands. National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has management authority for stranded marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. NOAA Fisheries responds to stranded marine mammals through its Hawai'i Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Network (HMMHSRN). Only those authorized and permitted by NOAA Fisheries may take part in a hands-on stranding response. However, the public can play an important role in the stranding response by doing the following:

WHAT TO DO:

1. Report any stranded marine mammal to NOAA Fisheries as soon as possible. A 24-hour emergency number is available to take your call 7 days a week (1-888-256-9840). Calling the local police department also assures timely coordination with the HMMHSRN.
2. Report the following information:
 - a. Location of the stranded animal;
 - b. Species or description of the animal if species is not known;
 - c. Approximate size of the animal;
 - d. Condition of the animal (wounded, entangled, bleeding, dead, alive);
 - e. Stranding location in terms of accessibility for vehicles; and
 - f. Name and contact numbers for the person reporting the stranding.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN:

1. The hotline operator will contact the appropriate NOAA Fisheries representative.
2. The NOAA Fisheries representative will coordinate with the HMMHSRN to provide the appropriate response.
**The HMMHSRN enlists the help of volunteer veterinarians, biologists, and other agency personnel who have marine mammal experience and other expertise. As appropriate to the situation, a few or many of our HMMHSRN members will be called to participate in the emergency response. The HMMHSRN depends upon early receipt of detailed accurate information in order to organize a quick and appropriate response. Public cooperation is essential to the success of any stranding response and, ultimately benefits the conservation of our protected marine mammals.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

1. Never approach a stranded animal. Stranded animals, whether dead or alive, pose risks to human health and safety.
2. Do not allow pets to approach a stranded animal. Canine distemper and other diseases can spread between dogs and marine mammals. Please keep pets on a leash and at a safe distance from stranded animals.



P L E A S E P O S T O R K E E P O N Y O U R B O A T

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Contact Number: _____

Location: _____

GPS (If known): N _____
W _____

Describe Sea Conditions: _____

Can vehicles easily access this location? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Species of Marine Mammal:

☐ Humpback Whale



☐ Pilot Whale



☐ Bottlenose Dolphin



☐ Spinner Dolphin



☐ Hawaiian Monk Seal



☐ Other: _____

Are you still with the animal? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Describe any visible injuries.

Please try to make a drawing showing entangling gear, injuries, and any other distinct characteristics.



Did you or can you get photographs or video?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Please Remember:

- 1) Make all observations from a distance (for humpback whales 100 yds., for other marine mammals 50 yds.).
- 2) Never approach an entangled animal. Entangled animals, whether dead or alive, pose risks to human health and safety.
- 3) Do not attempt to disentangle without NOAA Fisheries authorization.

CALL 24 HOUR HOTLINE 1-888-256-9840

FAX FORM TO 808-973-2941